



# **Recreation Report**

## **Malheur National Forest**

### **January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Visitors should prepare for all weather conditions, let someone know your plans, as well as the estimated time of return.**

**Firewood cutting and campfires are permitted. Firewood tags and permits are available at all Malheur National Forest Offices.**

### **Temporary Partial Closure – Forest Roads 15 and 16**

John Day, OR – Due to log haul operations and the falling of trees along Forest Service Roads 15 and 16, for public and logger safety, the following temporary road closures will be in effect beginning Saturday, January 12, 2013 until further notice:

- Forest Road 15 from the Forest Road 1520 junction, south to the Forest Road 16 junction.
- Forest Road 16 from the junction of Forest Road 1619 on the west to the junction of Forest Road 1640 on the east.

This closure applies to all motorized traffic, including over snow vehicles, as well as other winter activities such as skiing, etc.

We expect the roads to be at least partially open to over snow traffic after tree falling is completed, which is anticipated to be one week to 10 days.

The Parish Cabin Fire Area Closure remains in effect, prohibiting all off-road motorized vehicle use, including over snow vehicles. A map of the closed area can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>

For more information, contact the Malheur National Forest at (541)575-3000.

-USDA-

### **Coming Soon- Dixie Ski Tow:**

- The work on installing the new tow rope at the Dixie Ski Tow is almost complete. Opening date to be announced.

### **Sno-Park Information:**

- Huddleston Sno-Park is open for the season. The road into the sno-park is plowed as well as the parking area. Huddleston has many trails for snowshoeing and skiing and is a great place for snowmobilers to access numerous groomed and non-groomed trails. Huddleston also provides a nice warming hut to gather in after a day playing in the snow.
- Starr Sno-Park and Snow Bowl are open for the season. Starr Sno-Park has many groomed and un-groomed snowmobile trails that start at the park. Snowshoeing and skiing trails are a great way to enjoy the wonderful outdoors during the winter months. Close to the Sno-Park is the Snow Bowl, this is located just off of Hwy 395 South. The parking area for the Snow Bowl is on the side of the highway, and the play area is on the opposite side of the highway. Please use caution when crossing

the highway. The Snow Bowl has a great hill for snowboarding, sledding and skiing. There is a nice warming hut at the bottom of the hill perfect for warming up in-between runs.

- Dixie Sno-Park is open for the season. The Dixie Sno-Park is located at the summit of Dixie Mountain on Hwy 26. The parking is on the side of the highway in the wide area. Please use caution if crossing the highway. There are many groomed and un-groomed trails for snowmobile travel in the area. Please use caution in areas with snowmobile crossing signs.
- Idlewild Sno-Park is open for the season. Idlewild Sno-Park is off of Hwy 395 South. The park is a great starting point for snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and skiing. There are many groomed and un-groomed snowmobile trails in the area.

For maps of snowmobile trails in the area please stop by the Malheur National Forest offices. For online maps of snowmobile trails in Grant County please visit: <http://grantcountysnowballers.com/maps.aspx>

**All Sno-Parks require a Sno-Park pass.**

Passes can be purchased at any DMV or;

In John Day, at Chesters Thriftway, 631 West Main Street. 1-541-575-1899

In Burns, at Burns Ford Inc. 188 N. Broadway. 1-541-573-6014

Passes cost: \$3 per day, \$7 for 3 day (consecutive), or \$20.00 for an annual.

Visitors to these areas should be prepared for snow or ice covered roads. Wear layers, as well as tinted eye protection to prevent snow blindness. Be mindful of other snowmobilers, snowshoers, or skiers who may be in the area.

**Trails:**

- When hiking, skiing or snowshoeing on the forest during the winter months please be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. The Malheur National Forest does not physically close trails during the winter; however trails are not maintained, visitors should be prepared for downed trees, snow and debris on the trails.

**Snow Level Information:**

- For the latest on snow levels around the forest please visit:  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/Oregon/oregon.html>

**\*\*Note-** Please use caution when driving or recreating in the backcountry and primitive areas, as you may encounter: down trees, as well as muddy, snowy or ice covered roads.